

Any User. Any Data. Any Deployment.

Product
Brochure

A photograph of four business professionals (three men and one woman) sitting in a modern office environment, engaged in a discussion. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange rectangle. The text "Actuate e.Spreadsheet Designer" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the bottom of this rectangle.

Actuate e.Spreadsheet Designer

Actuate e.Spreadsheet Designer is an easy-to-use report development environment for creating flexible and customizable Excel spreadsheet reports. Unlike other report development tools, e.Spreadsheet Designer offers a unique Excel-driven report creation paradigm, enabling a broad range of users to create reports in order to communicate business-critical information throughout the enterprise. Reports created with the e.Spreadsheet Designer are deployed and delivered through the Actuate iServer, which provides a secure, centralized way of generating, managing and delivering Excel spreadsheet reports.



Overview

Actuate e.Spreadsheet Designer is an easy-to-use report development environment for creating flexible and customizable Excel-based spreadsheet reports. Unlike other report development tools, e.Spreadsheet Designer offers a unique Excel-driven report creation paradigm, enabling a broad range of users to create reports in order to communicate business-critical information throughout the enterprise.

Report designs created with the e.Spreadsheet Designer are deployed and delivered through the Actuate iServer, which provides a secure, centralized way of generating, managing and delivering Excel spreadsheet reports. From there, end-users receive fully functional spreadsheet reports, with live formatting, pivot tables, filters, 3D charting. Users can utilize their existing Excel skills to analyze and manipulate the data to meet their exact needs.

e.Spreadsheet Designers leverage Actuate's unique Information Objects-based meta data layer, where data is pulled from real-time complex data sources and transformed into a logical map for selection. The result—anybody with basic Excel knowledge can create and roll out fully functional Excel reports. Simultaneously, the reports can be regulated and server-driven to ensure one version across the organization. e.Spreadsheet Designer enables speedy roll-out of enterprise spreadsheet reports, while users of every skill level get customized, personalized spreadsheets to meet their unique and fast-changing business challenges.

e.Spreadsheet Designer runs in standalone mode for developing e.Spreadsheet templates, which are then deployed as e.Spreadsheets with Actuate iServer and e.Spreadsheet Option at runtime.

Fast Report Creation

With e.Spreadsheet Designer, you can build enterprise spreadsheet reports extremely rapidly, using a unique environment that closely resembles the Excel application itself. Powerful menu options and wizards contribute to making spreadsheet template creation extremely fast and straightforward, without the need for writing code. You can even

open an existing Excel file, modify its formatting and formulas, specify new data sources or update existing ones, then save the results as an e.Spreadsheet template.

Wizard-based content creation enables you to format cells and worksheets, adjust formulas and data grouping, summarize data automatically, insert graphs, pivot tables and more.

e.Spreadsheet Designer lets you create and customize the full array of charts available with Microsoft Excel, including 3D graphs, as well as connect your e.Spreadsheet template to a variety of data sources—including the Information Objects-based meta data layer, any database, XML files and Java objects—quickly and easily. All of which means anybody with some knowledge of Excel can deliver the spreadsheet reports your end-users need in record time, every time.

Easy Spreadsheet Report Customization

Templates can be created by business users, but it is easy for any user to extend and modify them to get exactly the spreadsheet report they want, without any need for further formatting or assistance. End-users can even prototype how they would like their e.Spreadsheet report to appear using Microsoft Excel, then customize the e.Spreadsheet that is delivered using standard Excel operations.

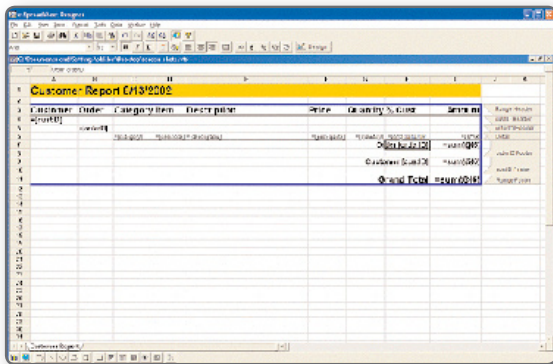
The result: Business users can generate the most accurate, useful spreadsheet reports possible and recipients can begin customizing those reports immediately, using the tools they already know and without any additional training or support. In addition, the IT department has the confidence to know that reports are regulated and secure.

Features and Benefits

Fast Report Creation

- Range Editor™
- Pivot Ranges™
- Query Wizard
- Query Design Editor
- Excel Formatting
- Existing Excel Files as Template Starting Points
- Multiple Chart Types
- Flexible Data Access
- XSLT Report Extension

Range Editor—e.Spreadsheet Designer comes complete with an intuitive Range Editor—a GUI that allows report developers to format data from a query into a spreadsheet report using a using the intuitive Excel paradigm. This capability allows even business users to toggle between data sheet and design views to create highly formatted Excel spreadsheet reports that change dynamically, based on the data retrieved by parameterized queries. The data saves as an editable XSL style sheet. Using dynamic cell references report creators can insert formulas, calculations and totals within a report design as intuitively as they would in Excel.



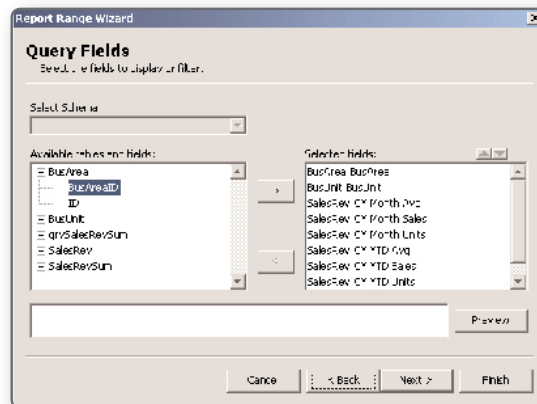
The Range Editor enables cells to reference fields in the database result set directly.

The report creator can effortlessly toggle between the report design and the actual report by toggling between the data view and the design view within e.Spreadsheet Designer.

The Range Editor enables the Report Creator to toggle to a data view of the spreadsheet report.

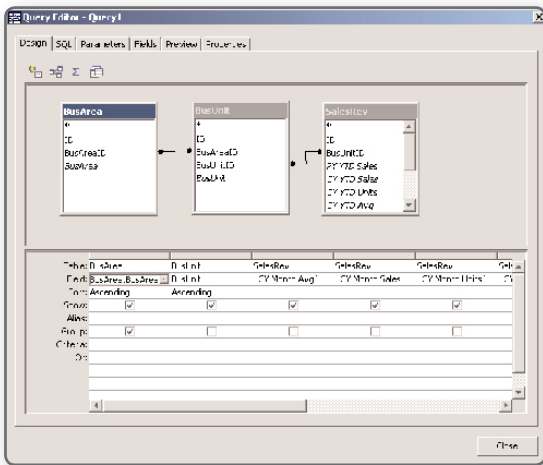
Query Wizard—e.Spreadsheet Designer's, point-and-click wizard that empowers the report developer to define a data source by specifying a query extracting data from tables using a Microsoft Excel-like user interface.

Report developers have the freedom to create queries using their existing knowledge of Microsoft Excel, without writing a single line of code or needing to know SQL. A handy data preview feature enables them to verify that the correct table is being chosen and ensure the correct connection to internal or external data.



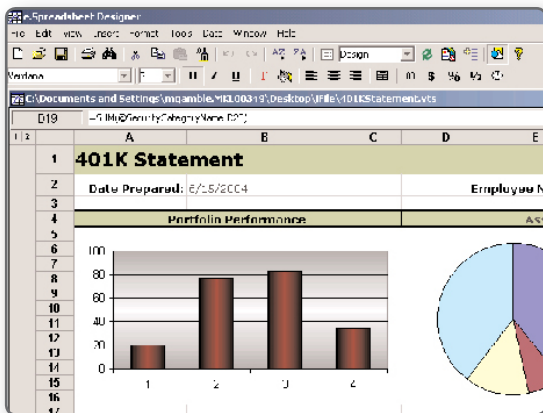
The Query wizard enables the report developer to define a data source and query without writing code.

Query Design Editor—The report developer can modify parameterized queries using a Microsoft Query-like drag-and-drop GUI. The GUI allows report developers to build a sophisticated parameterized SQL query in an iterative fashion using knowledge they already have. The output saves as a standard SQL query for future use.



The e.Spreadsheet Query Design Editor uses Microsoft Access-like interfaces to guide the report developer through the query creation process.

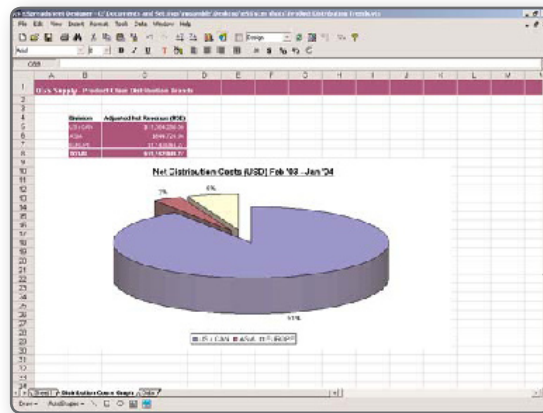
Excel Formatting—With e.Spreadsheet Designer, you can format e.Spreadsheet reports using the same formatting commands you're familiar with in Microsoft Excel. You can add and name multiple worksheets, enter formulas and functions into cells using Excel syntax, merge cells, sort data, create data groups, insert rows and columns, add graphical objects.



e.Spreadsheet Designer offers the same formatting and formula capabilities found in Excel

Existing Excel Files as Template Starting Points—e.Spreadsheet Designer lets you open existing Excel files—either your own or those of end-users, and use them as a starting point for new designs. With e.Spreadsheet Designer, it is simple to open Excel files, make the changes or updates you want, then save the resulting report format as an e.Spreadsheet template.

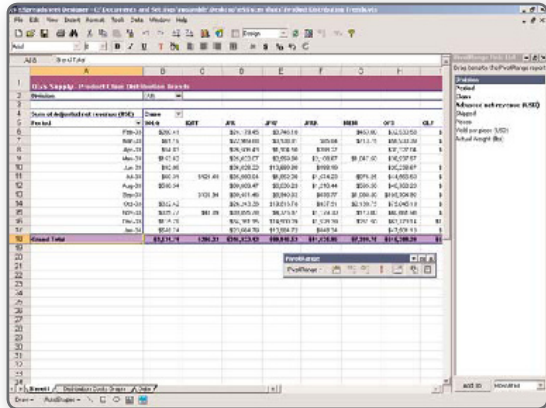
Multiple Chart Types—e.Spreadsheet Designer supports all of Excel's 3D chart types, including column, line, area, step, bar, combination, pie, doughnut, XY (scatter), bubble and stock.



e.Spreadsheet Designer supports all Excel chart types including 3D

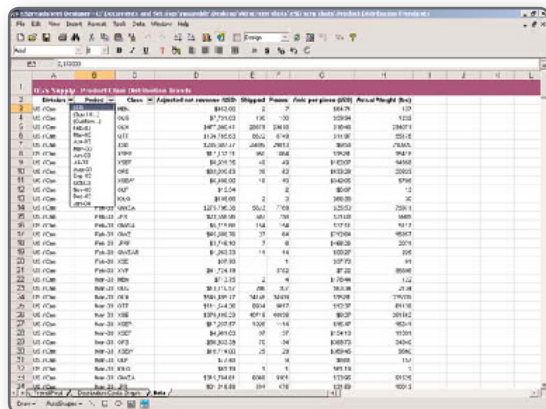
Flexible Data Access—With e.Spreadsheet Designer, you can access data from a wide array of data sources, including databases, text files and Java objects. And once you have saved your e.Spreadsheet template, connection and query definitions for each data source persists, so that data is refreshed each time a report is generated.

Pivot Ranges—e.Spreadsheet Designer delivers the drag-and-drop ability to create Excel Pivot tables to sort, sum and flip data independent of the original spreadsheet data layout.



The Pivot Range Editor makes it easy to create dynamic, data-driven, server-based Excel Pivot Table reports complete with filtering and drill down functionality

Live Data Filtering—e.Spreadsheet Designer includes ability to create advanced filtering capabilities in Excel for tighter granularity in data presentation.



e.Spreadsheet Designer provides automatic or custom filtering of spreadsheet data

Business-Friendly Data Access—With Actuate e.Spreadsheet Designer, complex data is made simple by leveraging Actuate's unique Information Objects-based meta data layer. Data is pulled in real-time from complex data sources and transformed into a logical map for selection.

XSLT Report Extension—e.Spreadsheet Designer's XSLT support makes it easy to customize your e.Spreadsheet report templates for any requirement. The addition of pivot tables or Excel macros—it's all straightforward with XSLT.

Easy Spreadsheet Report Management and Customization

- Centralized Generation and Management of Excel Reports
- Excel Prototyping
- Excel Customization
- Embedded Formulas
- Embedded Graphing
- Zero End-User Training

Centralized Generation and Management of Excel Reports

In general, corporations that have a high dependency on Excel reporting encounter multiple report versions, and inconsistent metric definitions. Therefore, it results in multiple versions of the truth with little collaboration and consensus amongst the user population. e.Spreadsheet Designer puts an end to this problem—it deploys and publishes refreshable e.Spreadsheets using the powerful security, version control, and scheduling capabilities of Actuate iServer. This ensures that while users receive personalized, customizable Excel reports, IT still ensures the quality, security and consistency of the information that users receive.

Excel Prototyping—With e.Spreadsheet Designer, you can involve end-users directly in the process of enterprise spreadsheet report creation by having them prototype the spreadsheet they want in Excel, using any of their existing spreadsheets or by creating a new one. So you can get a head start on exactly what they need, quickly, and without several unnecessary iterations.

Excel Customization—Once you've delivered the finished templates to your end-users, they can easily modify their e.Spreadsheet reports to meet their exact specifications.

This lets you spend less time tweaking finished spreadsheets and more time on the value-added tasks of spreadsheet design, data access and delivery.

Embedded Formulas—With e.Spreadsheet Designer, the spreadsheet reports you deliver enable end-users to leverage embedded formulas preserved within them to perform “what if” analysis and modeling, without having to manually input formulas or calculations and avoiding the common mistakes of manual information entry.

Embedded Graphing—Because e.Spreadsheets automatically retain Excel graphing, end-users can change or add data once, then see those results automatically reflected on all related graphs and charts. These embedded graphs make it easy and straightforward for users to modify their spreadsheet reports without additional support.

Zero End-User Training—End-users will be able to immediately leverage fully functional e.Spreadsheets with no training required, using the familiar Excel tools they use every day.

Technical Requirements

Actuate Designers are supported on the following operating systems:

- *Microsoft Windows 2000*
- *XP Pro*
- *Server 2003 on Pentium III 450 or higher PC's with minimum RAM of 256 MB and free disk space of 100MB*

The technical requirements listed here are for **guideline purposes only**. Please consult Actuate Support Services for the precise requirements for your specific environment.